

## West Mersea Queen's Platinum Jubilee Events - 2nd to 5th June 2022

The Queen's Platinum Jubilee was a major success on the Island with residents and visitors coming together and taking part in numbers in the various events over the four days.

### **Thursday 2nd June**

It all began with the ringing of the Church bells, a blessing by Rev Jude Bevan, followed by the official proclamation at 2pm read by Cllr. John Jowers outside the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul. This was followed by the opening of the church's flower festival, with amazing displays from over 35 local community groups. West Mersea was also honoured to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst. The weather was beautiful and sunny and a good crowd turned out to set the day off nicely.

*Below:*

*(Left) Cllr John Jowers reads the official proclamation; (right) Lord Lieutenant of Essex, Jennifer Tolhurst*



The Beacon lighting event on Victoria Esplanade took place in the evening with musical entertainment from the Amoroso and Vocalise choirs and the Colchester Pipe and Drum Band.

At 9.35pm the official part of the evening took place with the Pipers playing *Diu Regnare*, followed at 9.35pm by bugler Steve Holgate playing the officially written *Majesty*, heralding the lighting of the Beacon. The Beacon was then lit at the given time of 9.45pm.



At the same time across the UK and the Commonwealth many other communities lit their beacons. As the Beacon was lit the choirs sang *A Life Lived with Grace*, a song specially written for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The evening ended with a spectacular firework display.



### Friday 3rd June

The Jubilee Street Festival took place with various stalls on the High Street, and plenty of free music and entertainment for all ages.

Outside the MICA, local band Too Drunk Too Funk, played songs from all 7 decades, and Punch and Judy shows as part of the children's entertainment. A free gaming bus was also popular with older children. Many also took time to go around the classic car show in the Library Car Park, organised by MICCE (Mersea Island Classic Car Enthusiasts).

### Saturday 4th June

A music event at the MICA with Queen tribute band 'Crazy Little Thing Called Queen.' Everyone enjoyed a traditional fish and chip supper provided by the Island Fish Bar, before dancing the night away to all the Queen hits.

The MICA bar area became a photo booth for the evening thanks to a fabulous balloon arch backdrop by Dreams and Themes, with people getting their photos using 'royal' props.

The Grand Jubilee Raffle prize draw took place, with some fantastic prizes donated by local businesses. The raffle raised £2160 for Mersea Island Lions Club, who are a great support to our community.



### Sunday 5th June

The weekend's festivities came to end on Sunday with the Big Jubilee Lunch in the school playing field. Despite rain overnight, it cleared up and in true Brit style, people came with their picnics and in Royal fancy dress. An entertainer provided magic and balloon modelling for the children.



The Council presented Platinum Jubilee commemorative coins to the children in Mersea Island School.

A lot of preparation and organisation went into our special Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebrations but as ever it showed what we can do together as a community. Once again, we saw the island coming together as an integrated Community, something that we can continue to be proud of. It reminds us too, as always, our island is the best place to live.